

Idaho Immunization Assessment Board  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 5, 2013  
Department of Insurance

**Board Members Present:**

- Jack Myers – Blue Cross of Idaho –Chair
- Richard Rainey, M.D. – Regence BlueShield of Idaho (Via Conference Call)
- Tim Callender – AmeriBen/IEC Group
- Christine Hahn, M.D. – Department of Health & Welfare
- Chris Pickford – Boise School District
- Sen. Todd Lakey

**Board Members Absent:**

- Ted Epperly, M.D. – Family Practice Residency – Vice Chair
- Bill Deal-Director, Department of Insurance
- Jeff Thompson – Representative, Idaho Legislature
- Susan Rhoades – Jackson Food Stores

**Others Present:**

- Tom Donovan-Dep. Director DOI
- Sandy Metro – DOI
- Mitch Scoggins - Immunization Program Manager- DHW
- Tamarie Olson-DHW
- Rich Burleigh-Deputy Attorney General, Idaho

**Call to Order:** Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**Introduction of new Board member**

Chair Myers began the introductions to welcome Sen. Todd Lakey to the Immunization Board.

**Approval of Minutes from 1/28/13 meeting**

**MOTION:** Chair Myers asked for a motion to approve minutes. Dr. Christine Hahn moved the motion. Mr. Tim Callender seconded motion. Motion was passed on a voice vote.

**Reports – Update of Survey & Billings**

Ms. Sandy Metro informed the Board that all monies for 2012's Immunization fund had been collected including last quarterly payments due from the four carriers on the quarterly payment schedule. The survey's for 2013's Immunization fund have been sent out and all pertinent lives covered data have been received. Once the assessment amount per child is set by the Board, the billing will commence on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with payments due June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Chair Jack Myers introduced a report created to review the submitted survey data to help identify potential outliers in the number of covered children reported by each carrier. A few outliers were identified and Ms. Sandy Metro has followed up with the carriers to confirm or correct the reported numbers in question. Chair Myers and Dr. Rainey agreed to highlight carriers that possibly under or over reported the number of covered children. Ms. Metro is to contact these carriers for follow-up/number recalculations.

Chair Myers raised a question regarding the Board's right to have access to the proprietary information reported on the surveys, as the Board has the responsibility to ensure the accuracy of the reported data. Deputy Director Tom Donovan agreed that it is appropriate for Board members to be apprised and it is acceptable to analyze the data as long as the Board understands the appropriate use of the information. All Board members recognize the confidential nature of this proprietary information and will treat the information as such.

### **Financial Update from DHW**

Ms. Tamarie Olson provided the board members with a report highlighting the expenditures, collected assessment amounts, balances, and carry over amounts for the Vaccine Fund. It is noted that about 1.3 million will be a carry forward to the next assessment year (2013).

Dr. Christine Hahn explained to board members that new school rules which went into effect the year prior created a little bubble or peak of kids that caught up getting Gardasil or other more expensive vaccines and therefore caused the projection to be a little high. Ms. Olson added that the new registry could also have been a factor.

### **Old Business**

#### **Sunset Clause-Legislation**

Mr. Mitch Scoggins provided the Board with an update on the Sunset Clause legislation stating that House Bill 178 went unopposed thru the House of Representatives and then went on to the floor of the Senate where it passed. Five dissension votes were casted based on the appropriateness of government spending for vaccine funds. The Immunization Fund will function for two more years until July 1, 2015. Mr. Scoggins added that the assumption will be to either not continuing the fund by letting the fund sunset or go forward with a complete removal of the Sunset Clause. This could depend on whether there is still a financial benefit to the insurers to continue the funding.

#### **Administrator for Board-progress report**

Deputy Director Donovan provided the Board with the background surrounding the 2011 legislation dealing with the expressed authority for the Immunization Board to obtain administrative services and with the extension of the Sunset Clause, the Board would be in a position to retain contractual services. The DOI's fiscal officer indirectly raised the need to amend the fiscal note on the extension House Bill 178 or create a Trailer Bill to obtain spending authority for the Immunization account within the DOI's 2014 fiscal budget. The spending authority was not included in or added to a Trailer Bill for House Bill 178 which leaves the Board with a few options; Status Quo whereby the DOI staff would perform these duties indefinitely or Status Quo thru the current fiscal year and beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 thru June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 use non-immunization funding but other DOI spending authority for the purpose of obtaining administrative services for the Immunization Board; Simultaneously adding the administrative functions into a budget that is tied to the Immunization Fund for fiscal year 2015.

Deputy Director Donovan continued by stating that the budget spending authority would fall to the DOI while the Immunization Vaccine Fund would still be with the Board. Furthermore, the DOI would not plan to undertake the effort of retaining a subcontractor without keeping the Board apprised of any such actions.

Dr. Rich Rainey asked for a clarification as to if the recommendation that the DOI is willing to use its spending authority for its budgets to hire an administrator beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 and then adds the spending authority to the DOI's budget proposal that is drafted in September 2013 for consideration by the legislature in January of 2014. This will be the spending authority to start the Board in its budget beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Deputy Director Donovan confirmed that these proposals are the recommendations/intentions and the DOI does have the money to fund the hiring of an administrator out of its budgets.

### **New Business**

#### **CoreSource, Inc. refund request**

Ms. Sandy Metro informed the Board of CoreSource Inc.'s letter requesting a refund due to their alleged over payment of the Immunization Fund assessment for the last three years. The Plan of Operation clearly states that no request for reconsideration of any refund of payments made will be considered by the Board for a request that is not filed with the Board in writing on or before the date that is 6 months after the first due date for the corresponding assessment year. This request is well past the 6 month period of appeal. Ms. Metro will include the appeal wording from the Plan of Operation on the billing statement letters to be sent to the carriers for this year's (2013) assessment period.

Mr. Tim Callender suggested that the Board periodically review the Plan of Operation, specifically the section that outlines this procedure as these types of refund requests will ultimately surface again. This suggestion reflects the Boards awareness of the issue.

### **2013 Assessment decision**

Mr. Mitch Scoggins provided the Board members a spreadsheet highlighting the Base assessment cost, vaccine price variability adjustment factor, additional collections; carry over unspent funds, and the estimated State Fiscal Year 2014 (SFY2014) Assessment amount. All components were used to determine the Proposed per child assessment amount for SFY2014 of \$75.73. A step by step analysis of each factor that determines the final per child assessment amount was performed by Mr. Scoggins and the information provided was subsequently discussed at length by members of the Immunization Fund Board.

Chair Jack Myers voiced concerns about the proposed per child assessment rate which decreased for the last assessment period due to the large carryover of funds. In the absence of a large carryover from this year's assessment fund going forward into 2015, the per child assessment would increase significantly as the carryover funds are deducted from the Base Assessment costs.

Mr. Mitch Scoggins explained to the members of the Board the nature of the carryover funds and the contingency funds from last year's assessment and reiterated the fact that these funds are easily quantifiable.

Chair Jack Myers, after extensive deliberation and number crunching, proposed to set the per child assessment amount for SFY2014 at \$78.00 and adjust the vaccine price variable adjustment factor to about 6%. The justification being the Base Assessment costs are based off of a 2 year period of instable vaccine coverage and the vaccine price variable factor.

### **MOTION:**

Chair Jack Myers asked for a motion to change the proposed assessment per child rate for SFY2014 from \$75.73 to \$78.00 thru a change in the vaccine price variability adjustment factor; the two primary reasons for the change are to recognize that the Base Assessment Costs are an estimate over a period of time where a fair amount of instability in the vaccines covered was observed and also some uncertainties of the impact of Health Care reform beginning in January of 2014. Moved: Dr. Rich Raney; Seconded: Dr. Christine Hahn. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Mitch Scoggins will update the SFY2014 Vaccine Assessment Proposal spreadsheet and forward to Ms. Sandy Metro for distribution to Board members.

### **Next meeting**

Proposed date/time for next Board meeting is Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup> @3:00pm.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:50p.m. MDT

Minutes by Scott Frost, Idaho Department of Insurance